

# Environment

Over the last three decades, our Nation has made great progress in providing for a better environment and improving public health. Our gross domestic product increased 176%, our population has grown 39%, and our energy consumption has increased 45%, yet air pollution from the six major pollutants has decreased by 51%. Our air and water are cleaner today than when President Bush first took office. The President is committed to delivering even greater progress, and his 2006 Budget reflects that commitment with increased funding for cleaning up and restoring our lands, improving our water quality, preserving and improving our National Parks, and broadening our domestic energy options in an environmentally responsible manner.

## Improving Our Nation's Air Quality

To help our States meet the tough, new health-based air quality standards, the President's 2006 Budget includes:

### ***Clear Skies Initiative (EPA):***

- \$621 million to help cut air pollution to historic lows, including funds for the President's Clear Skies Initiative, which will cut power plant pollution by 70%, including mercury for the first time ever. Although Clear Skies legislation is the strongly preferred solution, the Administration is pursuing a regulatory path, including the Clean Air Interstate rule, as well. Together with the Administration's new regulations on diesel engines and fuel, these actions will help the Nation meet new stringent, health-based air quality standards.

### ***Cutting Diesel Emissions (EPA):***

- \$15 million for a Clean Diesel Initiative to support diesel engine retrofits, rebuilds, and replacements, anti-idling measures, clean fuel infrastructure projects, and other activities to achieve more immediate air quality improvements.

### ***Clean School Bus Initiative (EPA):***

- \$10 million for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean School Bus USA program, a \$3-million (34%) increase over 2005 enacted levels, for projects that reduce diesel emissions from school buses through bus retrofit or replacement activities. By expanding this program, additional resources are available to communities for localized solutions that address an issue important to children and parents across the nation. EPA estimates that this program could fund approximately 40 projects in 2006.

## Cleaning Up Abandoned Industrial and Waste Sites

To continue the significant progress made in cleaning and redeveloping abandoned industrial and waste sites, President Bush's 2006 Budget includes:

### ***Brownfields Clean-up (EPA):***

- \$210 million, \$46 million over 2005 enacted levels, for grants and loans to fund cleanup of lightly contaminated sites. The EPA's Brownfields programs help States,

Tribes, and local communities redevelop these abandoned industrial sites and make them productive, vital parts of the neighborhood. Brownfields grants support revitalization efforts by funding environmental assessment, cleanup, and job-training activities, eventually allowing the property to be used for business, parks, or housing. In 2006, EPA expects to assess 1,000 Brownfields properties, clean up 60 properties, and provide associated job training to 200 participants, placing 65% in jobs.

***Superfund and Other Clean-up Programs (EPA, Department of Energy):***

- \$1.3 billion for the Superfund program, \$31 million over 2005 enacted levels. In 2006, the program expects to maintain the current pace of remedial activities by controlling human exposures and groundwater migration at 10 more sites, completing cleanup construction at 40 sites, selecting final remedies at 20 sites, and making 500 final site assessment decisions.
- \$73 million in 2006 for the Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Program, \$4 million above the 2005 enacted level.
- \$6.5 billion for the Department of Energy's Environmental Management (EM) program to continue implementing cleanup reforms that will accelerate the reduction of risk to the public and the environment. The Budget also provides \$222 million for clean up and waste management of seven sites transferred in 2006 from EM to the National Nuclear Security Administration. By the end of 2005, the Department is scheduled to have cleaned 79 of the 114 sites contaminated with radioactive and hazardous waste, with the largest and most challenging site cleanups remaining.

**Improving the Quality of Our Waters and Wetlands**

To further improve our nation's waters and wetlands, and further protect aquatic habitat and ecosystems, the President's 2006 Budget includes:

***Restoring Our Great Lakes (EPA):***

- \$50 million to fund sediment cleanup activities under the Great Lakes Legacy Act at its fully authorized level, an increase of \$28 million over 2005 enacted levels. In May 2004, President Bush signed an Executive Order establishing the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force, which, under EPA's leadership, brings together ten Agency and Cabinet officers to provide strategic direction on federal Great Lakes policy, priorities and programs. The additional funding will allow EPA, in conjunction with its community partners, to continue remediating contaminated sediments in the Great Lakes Basin.

***Establishing, Enhancing, and Protecting Our Wetlands (Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior):***

- \$321 million for the Wetland Reserve Program, an increase of \$46 million over 2005 enacted levels, and \$50 million for North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants, an increase of \$13 million over 2005 enacted levels. On Earth Day 2004, the President announced an aggressive new national goal – moving beyond a policy of “no net loss” of wetlands to achieve an overall increase of wetlands in America each year. The President's goal is to create, improve, and protect at least three million wetland acres over the next five years in order to increase overall wetland acres and quality.

***Ocean and Coastal Programs (NOAA):***

- Significant resources for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) ocean and coastal programs in support of the President's U.S. Ocean Action Plan. More than \$1 billion is requested for the NOAA ocean and coastal programs and fisheries and protected species activities. This is a savings of \$360 million from 2005, due almost entirely to the elimination of unrequested funding. The Budget strengthens NOAA's Sea Grant program to address regional ecosystem research priorities; supports locally developed action strategies to protect coral reefs; and improves fisheries management, including providing funds for a new fisheries survey vessel and support for regional management councils.
- \$9.5 million for NOAA to implement the President's plan to provide the United States with nearly 100% detection capability for a U.S. coastal tsunami. The new system will also expand monitoring capabilities throughout the Pacific and Atlantic/Caribbean basins, providing tsunami warnings for regions bordering half of the world's oceans.

***Achieving Water Quality Improvements (EPA):***

- \$24 million for a water quality monitoring initiative that will provide grants to States to implement statistically valid monitoring programs.
- \$730 million for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to provide grants to States to capitalize their municipal wastewater State revolving funds. This funding level maintains the Administration's commitment to provide \$6.8 billion over eight years, meeting the long-term annual revolving level goal of \$3.4 billion.

***Improving Our Drinking Water Systems (EPA):***

- \$850 million for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for 2006. The funds capitalize revolving loan funds that communities use to finance drinking water systems and infrastructure improvements, including compliance with regulatory requirements. Statistics show that drinking water quality is improving. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently estimated that 31 drinking water-related waterborne disease outbreaks occurred in 2001-2002, down from 39 outbreaks in 1999-2000.

***Restoring the Everglades (Department of the Interior, Army Corps of Engineers):***

- \$221 million for the Department of the Interior and the Corps of Engineers, a \$38-million (21%) increase over 2005 enacted levels. The emphasis in 2006 is to proceed with the Everglades Modified Water Delivery project, a critical pre-cursor for Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). The Budget requests \$60 million for the Everglades Modified Water Delivery project – \$25 million for the Department of the Interior and \$35 million for the Army Corps of Engineers – a 650% increase over the \$8 million in 2005.

***Protecting Natural Habitat and Restoring Aquatic Ecosystems (Army Corps of Engineers):***

- Support for construction efforts that offer maximum returns for our Nation. The Corps is committed to limiting adverse environmental impacts resulting from its projects. Concurrent and post-construction mitigation activities permit the Corps to offset damage to natural habitat while minimizing the impact on commercial navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, and other water uses. The Budget includes \$510 million

for the Corps' aquatic ecosystem restoration program with an emphasis on the Florida Everglades, the Louisiana coastal area, and the Upper Mississippi River and on assisting recovery efforts for endangered and threatened fish and wildlife on the Columbia and Missouri Rivers.

### **Striving Toward Healthier Lands and Ecosystems**

The President has launched numerous initiatives and programs to improve our lands and ecosystems. The President's Healthy Forests Initiative is restoring, rejuvenating, and protecting forests and rangelands while reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfires that can harm wildlife habitat, destroy homes, damage livelihoods and prevent immediate forest or rangeland recovery. The President is also fulfilling his commitment to address the maintenance backlog in our National Parks. The 2006 Budget includes:

#### ***Implementing the Healthy Forests Initiative and the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior):***

- More than \$492 million for hazardous fuels reduction, over four times the amount provided in FY2000. The Healthy Forests Initiative budget in 2006 will reduce hazardous fuel loads and insect infestation on more than 2.9 million acres, up from 1.2 million in FY2000. From 2001-2004, the Forest Service and Interior agencies treated a total of 10 million acres. In 2005, the agencies intend to treat an additional 2.9 million acres, including more than 50% treated in the wildland-urban interface.
- \$167 million for the USDA Forest Service to monitor the environmental effects of the Healthy Forests Initiative and other projects on our national forests. By supporting watershed enhancements, vegetation management, and forest health research, the Budget improves forest and rangeland health to protect communities, wildlife habitats, and municipal watersheds from catastrophic fires.

#### ***Conserving Farmlands (Department of Agriculture):***

- An increase of \$37 million to provide more conservation technical assistance to livestock producers to comply with environmental regulations.
- An increase of \$10 million to help ranchers fight and control invasive species.
- \$274 million for the Conservation Security Program (CSP), a 35% increase. The CSP rewards farmers and ranchers for their existing levels of conservation and provides incentives for them to enhance their environmental stewardship.

#### ***Meeting the President's Funding Commitment to Reduce the National Park Service Maintenance Backlog (Department of the Interior):***

- A \$144-million increase over 2005 enacted levels for maintenance and construction at our parks, meeting the President's 2000 campaign commitment of \$4.9 billion over five years. Passage of the 2006 Budget and the Administration's surface transportation reauthorization bill will provide a 40% increase in annual maintenance funding from 2001 to 2006. With the funds expected through 2009, National Park Service assets such as park buildings will be brought to acceptable condition overall, as measured by the Facility Condition Index average.
- Support for operational funding for Interior's land management agencies. Operational funding for parks, refuges, and public lands will be 20% higher than 2001 levels.

***Promoting and Implementing Cooperative Conservation (Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior):***

- \$126 million in matching funds for Department of the Interior resource conservation projects, a \$37-million (42%) increase over 2005 enacted levels. Similar to last year's budget request, the initiative includes challenge cost-share funding for the National Park Service (NPS), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that provides an incentive for agencies and localities to work together on conservation projects.
- An emphasis on collaborative action and partnerships as the way the Department of Agriculture Forest Service conducts its business, and \$253 million for cooperative funding available through State and Private Forestry. The Forest Service will leverage over \$500 million in partnerships and collaborative work in FY 2006 to restore watersheds, reduce hazardous fuels, conduct joint research, construct trails, and assist economies in rural areas.
- Strong support for wildlife habitat restoration and a vital farming community in Klamath Basin by including \$6 million to restore the Barnes tract to functioning wetlands, \$7.45 million for the Upper Klamath River Basin Restoration Initiative – an increase of nearly \$5.3 million over 2005 – and \$8.1 million for Klamath Basin water conservation.

***Expanding Recreational Activities for Hunters and Anglers (Department of the Interior):***

- \$394 million for the National Wildlife Refuge System, a \$13-million increase over the 2005 enacted levels.
- \$74 million for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants, a \$5-million increase over 2005 enacted levels. The grant program assists States and federally recognized tribes in the development and implementation of activities that benefit wildlife.

***Recovering Salmon (NOAA):***

- Approximately \$330 million in discretionary spending for salmon restoration and conservation efforts in the Columbia/Snake river basin. This funding supports an inter-departmental initiative by the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce, the Department of the Interior, and the Environmental Protection Agency to recover West Coast salmon populations, many of which are listed as threatened or endangered. In addition to these proposed discretionary funds, the Bonneville Power Administration provides substantial mandatory funding for salmon restoration and conservation projects. The estimate for these funds in 2006 is \$238 million.
- \$90 million for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. The Department of Commerce's NOAA administers these grants to help share the costs of conservation activities for at-risk Pacific salmon runs in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, and Alaska.

**Climate Change Science**

***Climate Change Science Program:***

- Approximately \$1.9 billion for the Climate Change Science Program across 13 agencies. This Budget continues to support the goals outlined in the Climate Change

Science Program **Strategic Plan**, which was released in July 2003. Beginning in 2006, the Administration will track the expected actions, deliverables, and milestones for each of its programs in order to assess overall performance.

***Earth Observations:***

- Support for continued efforts to develop an integrated Earth observations system for the Nation that would ultimately be an integral part of a global system. The Administration has prepared a strategic plan as the first step towards the development of an integrated U.S. system and also is spearheading international efforts to develop an integrated global Earth observation system.

**Pursuing Cleaner, More Efficient Energy Technologies**

As America's need for energy grows, the Bush Administration is meeting the challenge by developing clean fuel initiatives to make the most of traditional fossil fuels, investing in cutting edge research on hydrogen, and providing tax incentives to promote deployment of energy efficient and renewable energy technologies. The President's Budget includes:

***Developing Cleaner Coal Technologies (Department of Energy):***

- \$286 million, an increase of \$13 million over 2005 enacted levels, for the President's Coal Research Initiative to improve the environmental performance of coal power plants by reducing emissions and improving efficiency. This includes:
  - \$68 million for the Clean Coal Power Initiative, of which \$18 million is allocated to continue development of FutureGen, the multi-year, coal-fueled, near-zero-emissions electricity and hydrogen generation project announced by the President in February 2003;
  - A commitment to FutureGen beyond 2006, by proposing \$257 million to become available in 2007 to provide the Federal share of FutureGen for several years; and
  - \$218 million for research and development of other clean-coal technologies, such as Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle systems, carbon sequestration, and next-generation turbines.

***Hydrogen Fuel Initiative (Department of Energy):***

- \$260 million for the Hydrogen Fuel Initiative to develop the fundamental science and technologies to produce, store, and distribute hydrogen for use in fuel-cell vehicles, electricity generation, and other applications.
- Continued strong support for high-risk, high-payoff basic research that is closely coupled and coordinated with the initiative's applied research and development programs. Research funded through the initiative has already led to reduced cost for fuel cells, and progress continues on other technological challenges in hydrogen production and storage.

***Tax Incentive for Renewable Energy and Hybrid and Fuel Cell Vehicles (Department of Energy):***

- Tax incentives for Americans totaling \$3.6 billion through 2010 to spur the use of energy-efficient technologies and clean, renewable energy, such as wind, solar, and biomass.

### **Detecting and Protecting Against Acts of Terror**

As the Administration fully engages in the War on Terror abroad, the President also recognizes the need to secure our citizens and infrastructure within our own borders. Protecting the nation's water supply is of critical importance. To that end, the President's Budget includes:

#### ***Protecting Water Infrastructure and the Environment (EPA):***

- \$44 million to fund the Water Sentinel Initiative to help further protect the Nation's water supply. Water Sentinel will utilize current technology and develop new technology to produce an operational water monitoring and surveillance system for threat contaminants.
- \$185 million in total for EPA's homeland-security activities, a 73% increase over 2005 enacted levels. In addition to Water Sentinel, this includes:
  - \$19 million in new funds to develop the necessary capabilities for detection and decontamination of threat agents. This investment in decontamination will advance the Federal Government's ability to be more prepared for emergencies;
  - \$12 million for the Environmental Laboratory Preparedness and Response program to develop a network to standardize analytical testing methods, provide surge capacity, and establish connectivity between laboratories; and
  - \$106 million to continue support for investigation and training activities, technical assistance to States, cooperative research, and EPA's national response teams.